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S E C R E T

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IDEALIST DM-3

SUBJECT: ONE TIME INSPECTION U-3

REF: ACCIDENT REPORT OF U-3A, 58-2186

1. U-3A, 58-2186 EXPERIENCED A NOSE GEAR COLLAPSE WHILE TAXIING AT 15 - 20 MPH. THE ACCIDENT REPORT INDICATED THAT AN EXCESSIVELY WORN BEARING (P/N 0841200-18) CAUSED SUFFICIENT SIDE PLAY OF THE NOSE WHEEL TO SET UP A RESONANT FREQUENCY IN THE LOWER SHOCK STRUT. THIS, IN TURN, CAUSED ENOUGH SIDEWARD SNAKING OF THE NOSE WHEEL TO BUILD UP SUFFICIENT SIDE LOADS TO FAIL THE DRAG LINK AND CAUSE SUBSEQUENT COLLAPSE OF THE NOSE GEAR STRUT. THIS WORN BEARING (TOP BEARING ON LOWER SHOCK STRUT) ALLOWED EXCESSIVE SIDE MOVEMENT BETWEEN THE NOSE GEAR UPPER SHOCK STRUT AND THE LOWER SHOCK STRUT.

2. AS THERE IS NO DATA AVAILABLE INDICATING MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE SIDEPLAY FOR THE NOSE WHEEL SUPPORT STRUT, THE

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FOLLOWING INVESTIGATORS FINDINGS ARE SUBMITTED FOR YOUR INFO.

A. WITH THE STRUTS EXTENDED AND A SIDE LOAD OF APPROXIMATELY 20 LBS APPLIED AGAINST THE LEFT, THEN RIGHT SIDE OF THE NOSE WHEEL AXLE, SIDE PLAY MEASURED AT THE AXLE WAS .265 INCHES.

B. WITH SAME LOAD APPLIED IN SAME MANNER, BUT WITH STRUTS COMPRESSED, THE SIDE PLAY WAS .135 INCHES.

C. PLS MAKE ONE TIME INSPECTION OF BEARINGS IN U-3 NOSE GEAR ASSEMBLY IF THESE BEARINGS HAVE NOT RECENTLY BEEN INSPECTED.

D. DRAWINGS EXTRACTED FROM REF ACCIDENT REPORT ARE IN THE MAIL TO YOU.

END OF MESSAGE

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